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LETTER DATED 3 APRIL 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw attention to the actions of certain circles within the Security Council aimed at disrupting the internal security of my country, and to clarify that groups of saboteurs have taken advantage of the situation created by the military operations conducted against Iraq with the authorization of the Security Council to infiltrate, with outside support and following plans drawn up abroad, into towns in the south and the north of Iraq. These groups have committed abominable criminal acts directed against the life and security of the inhabitants, their property and their honour, and State property and officials.

Since the State is called upon to assume the obligations and responsibility incumbent on it of restoring public order throughout the country and putting an end to the sabotage and the criminal acts perpetrated against the population by armed groups, it had to take the necessary measures to restore public order in the southern and northern provinces. Now that the authority of the State and of the law has been restored in the south and the north, the security measures that had to be taken to suppress the rebellion and the sabotage operations have achieved their objective.

My country's Government reiterates that the vast majority of inhabitants of Iraq's towns and villages have not collaborated with the groups of saboteurs. Some of them may however have been victims of the campaign of terror and lies disseminated by the saboteurs or have been compelled by armed force to leave the country - as has happened on other occasions - serving as a shield for the above-mentioned groups or a means of facilitating their escape abroad.

The Iraqi Government is in a position to affirm that the inhabitants of the towns and provinces where public order has been restored have nothing to fear in terms of their personal safety, their property or their legal rights, whether or not they remained in the towns and villages in question. The authorities will bring to book and prosecute only those who have been responsible for murders, fires, rapes or theft, or have taken up arms against the State and the law.

My country's Government invites all those of its citizens who have had to leave their homes or their places of residence to return to their town or village in Iraq in full security and full dignity. In this connection, the Iraqi authorities are prepared to cooperate with any third party.

The Iraqi Government also appeals to the Governments of neighbouring countries to cooperate with it in restoring the situation and reinstating public order so as to avoid the relations they maintain with Iraq being affected. It also calls on the foreign circles which have discovered their humanitarian vocation to stop exploiting the sufferings of the Iraqi population for political and basely self-interested purposes.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdul Amir AL-ANBARI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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